

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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MILITARY ATTACHES APPOINTED FOR AUSTRIA. Now that Austria has completely regained her sovereignty, military attaches have again been assigned to foreign diplomatic missions in the country, for the first time since 1938. The present military representatives of Washington in Vienna are Colonel D.M. Oden, formerly Chief of Staff in Salzburg, and Colonel J.L. Mac-Croskey, who is accredited as an Air Force attache. Colonel J. Packart, formerly British liaison officer with the French Army in Western Germany, has been appointed military attache to the British Embassy in Vienna. The French military attache is Colonel Olle-Laprune, former commander of various French occupation units stationed in Austria, and Colonel I.M. Makowsky is the Soviet military attache.

ASYLUM IN AUSTRIA.

During the first half of November 1955, 32 persons from neighboring countries registered with the Austrian authorities and asked for asylum. One of these refugees came from Hungary, one from Czechoslovakia and 30 from Yugoslavia. The Hungarian, the Czech and two of the Yugoslavs gave political persecution in their native countries as the reason for their flight to Austria while the others explained that they had left Yugoslavia because of the poor living conditions. All of the refugees expressed a desire to emigrate to overseas countries.

FIGL ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl recently discussed the negotiations which Austria is carrying on

with a number of neighboring countries in order to solve problems which are still unsettled. He said that the visit of West German Foreign Minister von Brentano had produced highly satisfactory results and that even though the German-Austrian conversations had been limited to laying down general principles, the agreement was a promising prelude to the forthcoming discussions of problems in detail.

Herr Figl indicated that contacts with Italy are being maintained and that Austria is prepared to make extensive use of the port of Trieste, although economic considerations are the primary concern in this matter. He also mentioned that some satisfactory progress had been made with respect to implementing the Paris Agreement on South Tyrol, on which subject further negotiations

are expected. Talks would be held with Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia on the subject of Austrian property in those countries. In connection with Austrian neutrality, Foreign Minister Figl declared: "We obligated ourselves only to maintain military neutrality. We have not assumed any ties or obligations in any other sphere, political, economic or cultural. Above all, our neutrality cannot be an ideological neutrality. We shall be free to express criticism in any direction, subject to no influences."

HIGH AUSTRIAN DISTINCTION AWARDED TO CLARENCE EARLE MEYER. On December 1, 1955, Dr. Karl Gruber,



The first units of the new Austrian army parading in Vienna.

Austrian Ambassador in Washington awarded the Grand Gold Medal with Ribbon to Mr. Clarence Earle Meyer for services to the Republic of Austria. Mr. Meyer, who is at present the head of the United States Operations Mission (U.S.O.M.) in Tokyo, Japan, was in charge of the ECA Mission to Austria during the difficult reconstruction period after the end of World War Two. The awarding of this highest Austrian distinction is an expression of the gratitude of the Austrian Republic to Mr. Meyer for his devoted work in the interest of Austria.

AUSTRIANS LIVING ABROAD TO MEET IN SALZBURG IN SEPTEMBER 1956. The World Federation of Austrians Living Abroad and the Organization of Austrians Abroad are setting up a meeting to be held in Salzburg from September 14 to 16, 1956. All Austrians who are residing outside the country will be invited through the World Federation and through Austrian societies abroad to attend the gathering.

SOVIET RED CROSS AIDS SEARCH FOR AUSTRIANS IN USSR. During a visit of an Austrian Red Cross delegation to Moscow, a promise was obtained that in the future all requests by this Austrian organization concerning Austrians who were still in the Soviet Union would be answered by the Soviet Red Cross, the latter organization also promising to lend its assistance in determining the fate of such Austrian citizens. The Soviet Red Cross also undertook to give help in those cases where Austrians had not yet been repatriated from the Soviet Union, promising that in the future ethnic Germans whose relatives were living in Austria as Austrian citizens would be repatriated directly to Austria. The Austrian delegation was supplied with lists of names of Austrians whose deaths had been positively established by Soviet agencies or concerning whose whereabouts no information had been obtained, despite intensive inquiries.

12 NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRIA. Following the recent extension of the Law on Holidays by Parliament, there are now 12 legal holidays in Austria: January 1 (New Year's), January 6 (Epiphany), Easter Monday, May 1, Ascension Day, Whit-Monday, Corpus Christi, August 15 (Assumption), November 1 (All Saints' Day), December 8 (Immaculate Conception), December 25 (Christmas) and December 26 (St. Stephen's Day).

Under the same law, Good Friday is also a legal holiday for members of the Evangelical Churches (Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions), the Old Catholic Church and the Methodist Church.

TRANSIT OF AUSTRIAN GOODS VITAL FOR TRIESTE.

The recent conference in Rome on the utilization of the port of Trieste was attended by representatives of Switzerland, the German Federal Republic, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well as by an Austrian delegation. It was emphasized in Austrian quarters that, from the geographical point of view, Trieste is the most favorably situated port for Austria. Hence, the transit of goods to and from Austria via Trieste is of vital importance for that city. Austria accounted for 1.5 million tons, or exactly two-thirds of the total tonnage cleared through Trieste in 1954.

1955 BUDGET DEFICIT WILL USE UP GOVERNMENT'S CASH RESERVES. According to a recent announcement by Finance Minister Kamitz, the total deficit of 2.6 billion schillings which had been included in the 1955 budget has increased to a total of 5.9 billion, as a result of unexpected supplementary expenditures amounting to something over 3.3 billion schillings. The new expenditures are connected with State Treaty obligations, national defense, increased federal salaries and new federal loans. As against this additional outlay, there will be an increased federal income amounting to approximately 4.2 billion schillings, originating mainly with higher tax receipts, so that 1955, according to present calculations, will terminate with a budget deficit of 1.7 billion. Some reduction of this amount will be possible through savings and increased receipts up to the end of the year. The total deficit will nevertheless be well over 1 billion schillings. This means that practically all of the Government's available cash reserves will have to be exhausted.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS STUDY ELECTRIFICATION OF AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE. An international delegation of experts on electricity, headed by Mr. P. Sedwett, head of the Electrification Section of the UN's European Economic Commission, recently arrived in Austria to study the electrification of Austrian agriculture. The delegation is also discussing questions connected with the expansion of Austria's power system.

EXTENSIVE USE OF HELICOPTERS IN AUSTRIA. During recent weeks, 23 new helicopter fields have been opened for operations. These fields are being used by a newly organized helicopter company which will offer the following services: transportation of materials to inaccessible areas; aerial advertising; pest control flights; surveying and forest inspection; and an air taxi service. The company's helicopters will also be available to the Austrian Emergency Flight Service for emergency cases.

ONE-WAY STREETS PROPOSED AS SOLUTION TO VIENNA TRAFFIC PROBLEM. A total of 105 different recommendations have been formulated as a result of a large-scale survey of Vienna's traffic problems. One of the major proposals calls for the introduction of a one-way-street system in the Inner City without, however, causing a disruption of through traffic. Other suggestions call for developing the Vienna Stadtbahn (part underground, part overhead transit system - Ed.) into an express line and for replacing certain street-car lines by buses, provided as many as 80 buses per hour is feasible on these lines during rush hours. The results of the survey show extreme reservation about the possibility of wholly transforming the streetcar system into a trackless transportation network. On the other hand, there was general support for the idea of developing Vienna's Danube port facilities and for the establishment of a large central airport in the vicinity of Vienna.

THE EFFECTS OF LIBERALIZATION ON FOREIGN TRADE. The latest monthly report of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research includes a supplement on import trends since the introduction of the 75% liberalization policy in May 1954.

From July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1955, the value of imports was 43% higher than in the corresponding period of the previous year, while the volume of imports was even 53% higher. At no time previously has there ever been such a sharp increase in imports during a 12-month period. Export was also increased during the same period, although on a much smaller scale than import. The upsurge in imports is due only in part to liberalization. Other significant factors are the general boom conditions, increased requirements for supplementary wheat as well as other foodstuffs and increased demand for delicacies and also the "automobile and refrigerator craze." In the case of the boom factor, however, it was not only increased purchasing power which accounted for the demand for foreign goods. As a result of the boom, imports of raw materials have increased at a higher rate than industrial production. The wave of imports was also swelled by a disproportionate increase in capital goods imports. The increase in wheat imports was unusually high, amounting to 62%. The increase for all other foodstuffs was 42%.

Following a transition period characterized by a slight tendency toward economic stagnation and by the start of a trend toward saving and after stabilization of the schilling, demand shifted first to staple consumer goods and then to foodstuffs, clothing and refrigerators. In the case of textile imports, the report indicates that the increase is due entirely to the liberalization measures: this is the only category where the elimination of quantitative limitations on imports can be considered as the exclusive reason for an increase.

The report indicates that in its other aspects the import trade is following a uniform trend.

REAL WAGES UP 10% SINCE 1952. The trend of living costs and wages in Austria since 1952 has resulted in a cumulative increase in real wages amounting to 10 percent. The development began in 1952, with the cost-of-living index at 814 — as against 100 in April 1945. The wage index at the time was approximately 723. As a result of stabilization measures, the price index dropped to 768.5 in September 1953. The wage index remained constant, thus resulting in 5.6 percent improvement in buying power. A year later, in September 1954, there was a slight increase in living costs and a greater one in wages: this meant that there had been another increase in real wages, amounting to 4.3 percent. By September 1955, living costs and wages had undergone a fairly uniform increase, so that real wages remained constant. As a result, price levels during September 1955 were still 0.7 percent lower than those of September 1952 — and this despite boom conditions. On the other hand, there was a 9.2 percent increase in wage levels during the same period, so that when both factors are viewed together the increase in real wages since 1952 amounts to 10 percent.

INTERNATIONAL APICULTURAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN VIENNA IN 1956. The 16th International Apicultural Congress, which will be held in Vienna from August 12-18, 1956, will be attended by scientists and beekeepers from every continent. At the same time as the congress, an exhibition dealing with the latest achievements in apiculture will be held in the Vienna City Hall.

EVANGELICAL SYNOD OPPOSES ORDINATION OF WOMEN PASTORS. The General Synod of the Evangelical Churches of Austria which was recently held in Vienna rejected the application of a woman theologian for subsequent ordination and, as a consequence thereof, for the right to take over and exercise the office of pastor. During the same session, it was decided to revise and reappraise the principles applying to the service of vicaresses and also to make women theologians the equivalent of pastors in point of material advantages. Lutheran Bishop May was elected Chairman of the Supreme Evangelical Church Council, Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions, and Volkmar Rogler, Provincial Superintendent of the Reformed Church was chosen as his deputy. Delegations of the Synod were received in Vienna by the President, the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the Minister of Education.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

1956 VIENNA FESTIVAL TO HONOR MOZART. The musical program of Vienna 1956 Festival, which will be held from June 2-24, will be inspired largely by the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The State Opera will present a Mozart cycle and the concert program for the period will feature performances of Mozart works by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Koncertgebouw Orchestra, the Leningrad Philharmonic, the Prague Philharmonic, the orchestra of La Scala Opera House in Milan, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

MUSEUM WEEK IN 1956 TO FEATURE 150 SPECIAL EXHIBITS. Approximately 150 museums in Austria are planning to organize special exhibitions and displays as well as lecture series in connection with International Museum Week in 1956. Austria will participate in the international exchange of films about museums by presenting documentaries dealing with the Treasury of the Vienna Hofburg Palace, the Breughel Collection of the Vienna Museum of Art History and the art of the Innsbruck armorers.

BOEHM INVITED TO CONDUCT IN U.S. CITIES. Dr. Karl Boehm, Director of the Vienna State Opera, has been invited to give three concerts in Philadelphia and one concert each in Baltimore, Washington and New York with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

MODERN SUNDIALS LATEST EXPORT ARTICLE. Dr. Georg Innerebner, an Austrian specialist in modern sundials, has been commissioned by the Swedish Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, to design a three-dimensional sundial in the form of a globe, to be placed in the Embassy gardens. Innerebner will shortly carry out a similar order for Sao Paulo in Brazil. He has already completed over thirty such sundials for foreign countries.

JAPAN SHOWS UNEXPECTED INTEREST IN MOZART. In honor of the forthcoming Mozart year, eight special Mozart concerts are scheduled in Osaka, Japan, for the period between the end of 1955 and January 1956. At these concerts all of Mozart's piano concertos will be performed, some

of them for the first time in Japan. Each of the concertos will be played by a different pianist, a total of 24 Japanese pianists having been engaged for this concert series. The concerts will then be repeated in a number of other cities in the Kansai District. Other scheduled events connected with Mozart are a musical play in the Japanese language dealing with the life of the composer, to be performed by the Dakarazuka Theater early in 1956, as well as gala performances in Tokyo of Mozart's operas "The Marriage of Figaro," "Don Giovanni" and "The Abduction from the Seraglio." A special Mozart Society has been organized in Tokyo to be responsible for the Mozart Year events in Japan.

PROFESSOR BURKHARD INVITED TO LECTURE AT VIENNA UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Arthur Burkhard, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University, who over a ten-year period has translated the works of the Austrian author Franz Grillparzer into English, recently gave an important lecture at Vienna's Akademie Theater in which he stressed the difficulty of making Grillparzer's outlook on life understandable to the American mentality. The program also included readings from Grillparzer's works, in German and English, by Burgtheater actors Liewehr, Moog, Schreiner and Kallina as well as by Professor Burkhard himself.

During his stay in Vienna, Professor Burkhard was invited to lecture at Vienna University in January 1956.

MINIMUM FEES ESTABLISHED FOR TV APPEARANCES.

Under the terms of a contract recently concluded between the Austrian Broadcasting System and the trade unions, the minimum fee to be paid artists appearing on TV programs will be 200 schillings (approximately \$7.70). A limit of 6 hours was placed on rehearsal time. For those who do not appear on the television screen (e.g. musicians, supervisors, prompters etc.), the minimum fee was set at 150 schillings. For dramatists, set designers and ballet masters, the minimum is 600 schillings. Participants in the programs will be entitled to an additional 25% of the initial fee when the program is repeated in the form of a film version. Special agreements will be required for any telecasts abroad.

SALZBURG FESTIVAL TO RUN FROM JULY 21 TO AUGUST 30, 1956.

The dates for the 1956 Salzburg Festival have now definitely been set for July 21 to August 30. In connection with the year's Mozart festivities, the Festival will present performances of the following Mozart operas: "Don Giovanni," "The Abduction from the Seraglio," "The Marriage of Figaro," "Idomeneo" and "The Magic Flute." The dramatic performances will include the traditional "Everyman" of Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Goethe's "Egmont." The Festival will also include 7 orchestral concerts, 4 concerts with soloists, 4 song recitals, 7 chamber music concerts, 8 serenades, 6 matinees and 4 Cathedral concerts. The conductors thus far engaged for the Festival are Karl Boehm, Rafael Kubelik, Dmitri Mitropoulos, Eugene Ormandy, Georg Solti, George Szell and Bruno Walter.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG AWARDS. The 1955 National Prize for Books for the Young was recently awarded to "Servus Pinguin" by Gerhard Stappen and Otto Huber (Austrian Federal Printing Office) and "Prinz Seifenblase und andere Geschichten" by Irene Stemmer (Jungbrunnen Publishing House).

The Books for the Young Prize of the City of Vienna was divided between "Die Maenner von Kaprun" by Otmaz Franz Lang (Austrian Federal Printing Office) and "Der Weg des Bruders" by Georg Schreiber (Jungbrunnen Publishing House). The judges for both the National and the City Prizes made special honorary mention of Alma Hølgersen's "Die Drei Hirtenkinder von Fatima" (Herold Publishing House).

NEW PUBLICATIONS COMMEMORATE REOPENING OF OPERA.

The reopening of the Vienna State Opera has provided the occasion for the publication of numerous articles and books on the subject of that institution. The Federal Theater Administration itself has issued a booklet entitled "Vienna State Opera, 1955," edited by Professor Heinrich Kralik and published by the Austrian National Printing



Stage Setting for Boris Blacher's "Othello"

Office. In addition to numerous official statements, the little volume contains interesting material from the Austrian National Library's Theatrical Collection. (See Special Supplement on page 6).

An English edition of Professor Heinrich Kralik's documentary work entitled "The Opera House on the Ring" has now been published by the Gebrueder Rosenbaum publishing house. This 200-page volume has many reproductions in color of famous paintings and scenes from past and present performances at the Vienna Opera.

A commemorative volume published and edited by Dr. Friedrich Lange consists primarily of articles by Vienna music critics and musicologists. Its statistics on the premieres given by the State Opera company since 1945 as well as its description of the present ensemble, accompanied by photographs and short biographies, gives the volume permanent documentary value.

The opening of the opera was also the subject of a special issue of the respected Austrian magazine "Musik-Zeitschrift." In addition to many articles by musical artists, the volume contains numerous technical details about the reconstruction of the opera. Another significant volume is the "Almanac of the Vienna State Opera, 1955-56," published by the Bergland publishing house.

LATEST UN STAMP DESIGNED BY AUSTRIAN-BORN ARTIST. The "Human Rights Day" stamp, the latest of the special stamps to be issued by the United Nations, was designed by Professor Woyty-Wimmer, the well-known Austrian postage-stamp artist who is one of the most famous students of Cossmann. Woyty-Wimmer has designed a large number of Austrian stamps, among others, those of the St. Stephen's Cathedral Series, the Flower Series, the 1949 Returning Prisoners Series and the 1950 airmail stamps.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY COMPLETES DRAFT FOR RADIO LAW. The Ministry for Communications and Nationalized Enterprises has prepared the draft of a law relating to new regulations for broadcasting in Austria as necessitated through Austria's acquisition of her freedom. The draft is presently being studied by the other ministries and agencies concerned. Under the terms of the draft, a legally authorized public institution, to be known as "The Austrian Broadcasting System," will be established in Vienna to set up and operate radio broadcasting installations, including television transmitters, throughout Austria. The "Austrian Broadcasting System" shall be the only agency authorized to carry out this task. It will also be responsible for programming and will be expected to take into account the special interests of the various provinces.

The chief authority for radio and television matters will be the 26-member Radio Commission. Twenty-four of these members will be proposed by the political parties represented in the Steering Committee of Parliament, in proportion to their numerical strength, and the other two members will represent the workers and office personnel of the Austrian Broadcasting System. Acting as advisory members of the Commission will be one representative each from every recognized religious community, six representatives from the fields of art, science and adult education and one representative of the Austrian Postal Administration. The members of the Radio Commission will not be bound by any directives and their decisions will be based solely on factors of interest to radio broadcasting. Some of the more important matters subject to the approval of the Commission are the following: establishment of principles for radio and television broadcasts, agreements with foreign radio and television stations, drawing up of budgets, conclusion of contracts and determination of wages. Implementation of the Commission's decisions and the management of operations will be in the hands of the Directorate.

The governments of the provinces where broadcasting studios are located will appoint advisory councils on programming, the members of which will be proposed by the political parties represented in the provincial legislature.

These councils will assist the Radio Commission and the Directorate in preparing programs and will supply those in charge of local broadcasting studios with directives concerning programs of local interest.

Immediately after publication by the Communications Ministry of the above-described draft law, the Austrian People's party announced that it could not approve the draft in its present form.

SUBSIDIES FOR VIENNA EXPERIMENTAL THEATERS.

The Legislature of Vienna Province has again increased the subsidies being paid to Vienna's experimental theaters for their cultural activities. During October 1955, allotments of this type were made to the "Theater der Courage" for its production of J.B. Priestley's "Dangerous Truth," to the "Kleine Theater im Konzerthaus" for "The Forgotten Heaven" and to the "Theater am Parkring" for "Lionel the Lion."

NEW FESTIVAL THEATER FOR SALZBURG.

Upon completion of the estimates for the construction of a new and modern theater, suitable for all the requirements of the Salzburg Festivals, the Ministry of Commerce has set the budget for this project at 115 million schillings. As far as design — which is the work of Professor Clemens Holzmeister — has been developed, the new Festival Theater will be constructed in the immediate vicinity of its existing counterpart, along the steep wall of the Moenchberg. The elaboration of Professor Holzmeister's plans would require approximately 9 months, so that work could not begin until the fall of 1956, and it is estimated that completion of the building would require three years. Above all, it is intended that the new Festival Theater should include a stage which is appropriate for a theater playing to an international audience. It is also planned that the auditorium of the new building will have 700 more seats than the existing Festival Theater.

PROF. HOLZMEISTER DISCUSSES WORK OF FINE ARTS ACADEMY.

In connection with his inauguration as Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Professor Clemens Holzmeister announced that in December 1956 this institution would celebrate, in an appropriate manner, the 200th anniversary of its founding as an academy of architecture, painting and sculpture. Among the goals he was setting in his new capacity, Professor Holzmeister said, would be that of bringing about an improvement in the background knowledge of architecture students, this to be accomplished by part-time study at the Institute of Technology — especially courses and practical work in statics and on the subject of reinforced concrete. He also announced that in the future the Second Division of the School of Architecture would devote more attention to the subjects of housing and city planning. The new Rector also mentioned that the Academy would henceforth show particular interest in the cultivation of Christian art since church design affords unique and extensive opportunities for the architectural, painting and cultural arts.

EVERY EIGHTH VIENNESE IS OVER 65.

During a recent lecture Viennese Professor Otto Novotny revealed that as late as 1931 only 18.7% of the inhabitants of Vienna were over 50 years of age, whereas in 1951 the percentage was twice as great. In 1910, only 4.4% of the city's population was over 65, in 1934 the figure was over 8% and in 1951 it had reached 13.3%. This means that every eighth Viennese has passed his 65th birthday.

DRAMATIC SCHOOLS AND THEATRICAL COLLECTIONS IN VIENNA

When speaking of Vienna, the Viennese theaters immediately come to mind. For a hundred and fifty years, the Vienna Burg Theatre has been considered the leading or, at least, one of the leading houses in the German-speaking world. The Burg Theatre, however, is only one of many renowned theatres to be found in the capital city.

In the last few decades, Vienna has become the centre for systematic research on all phases of dramatic art: every performance in Vienna, or indeed anywhere in the world, is carefully recorded and catalogued, and then studied objectively. There are also four institutions in the city where theatrical study or theatrical research can be carried out:

1. The Theatrical Collection of the National Library, supplemented by collections from the Town Library, is an almost inexhaustible source of material. In the near future a "Theatrical Museum" will be established and those now in charge of The Theatrical Collection will organize it;

2. The Max Reinhardt Dramatic School at Schoenbrunn, one of the most eminent of dramatic schools, where education is based on the most recent and modern thought in the dramatic arts;

3. The "Central School of Scenic Art and Festival Organization" (Meisterschule fuer Buehnenbildnerei und Festgestaltung) is a department of the Academy of Fine Arts. Special courses are also held at the Academy of Applied Arts (Akademie fuer Angewandte Kunst) and at the Institute of Technology (Technische Hochschule). There, budding scenic designers are familiarized with the most advanced ideas in scenic decor and stage techniques; and

4. The "Institute of Theatrical Science" (Institut fuer Theaterwissenschaft) at the University is the centre of theoretical and historical studies.

RHEUMATISM IS THE MOST PREVALENT DISEASE IN AUSTRIA.

According to a statement of University Lecturer Blumencron at the recent Industrial Hygiene Meeting in Vienna, rheumatism is responsible for the loss of three-and-one half million manhours annually. He said that this was the equivalent of a large industrial plant with a staff of 15,000 being completely immobilized all year round. Among Austria's 3 million insured through social welfare, 142,000 suffer from rheumatic diseases every year. Every fifth insured worker granted a disability pension has been made unemployable by rheumatism, as against every fifteenth by tuberculosis.

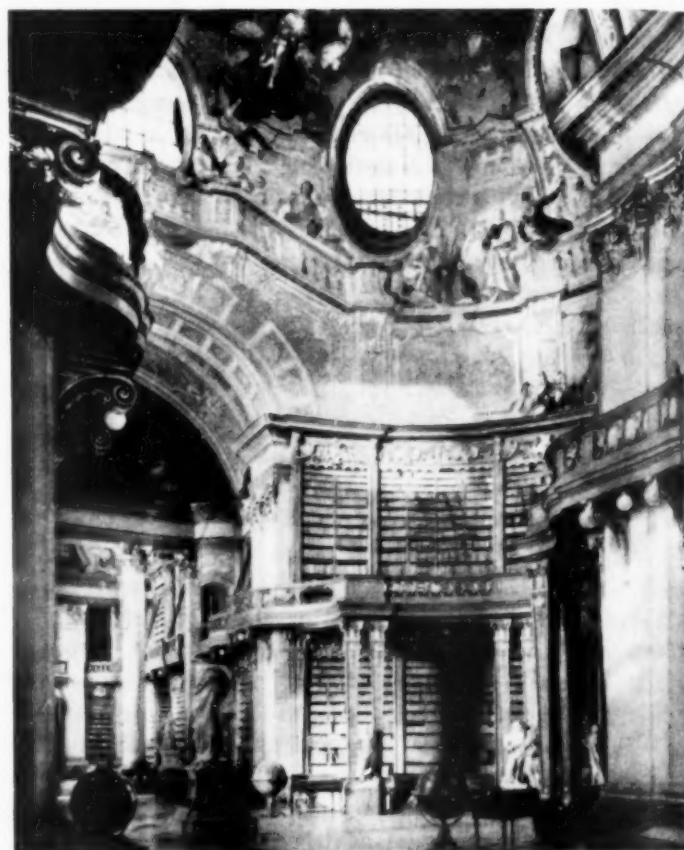
Dr. Blumencron stated that these facts mean that rheumatism is today the most widespread disease in Austria.

The Association of Austrian Industrial Physicians, in collaboration with the Austrian Society for Industrial Hygiene, has decided to organize a group of experts to study this problem, with a view to combatting rheumatism through joint action on an extensive scale.

Dr. Blumencron studied and analyzed the problem of rheumatism in the course of large-scale examinations involving 4,000 patients.

The Unique Collections of the Vienna National Library

The twenty-three huge rooms of the Vienna National Library can barely hold the innumerable volumes and valuable documents stored there. In part, the collection contains mementos of the famous Viennese theatres of the past.



AUSTRIAN OLYMPIC TEAM FOR 1956 SELECTED.

The Austrian Olympic Committee recently announced the composition of the teams which will participate in the 1956 Winter Olympic Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, and for the Summer Games at Melbourne, Australia. In the winter games, Austria will participate in the following competitions: bob sledding, figure skating, speed skating and ice hockey. She will also compete in the following ski events: Alpine running, jumping, long-distance skiing and Northern Combination.

Since the only athletes who will be sent to the Summer Olympics are those who ranked better than 10th in the world championships or 5th in the European championships for any given type of sport, only 19 candidates are available thus far. These will participate in the following competitions: paddling, sailing, high and fancy diving, weight lifting and wrestling. The idea of sending a bicycle team is also under consideration.

At the Olympic Riding Games in Stockholm Austria will participate in the Great Training Test and the National Jumping Event.

Due to a technical error, the last two paragraphs of the article on Atomic Power Plants on page 3 of last week's Austrian Information bulletin was printed on pages 6 and 7.

Theater in der Leopoldstadt", "Theater in der Josefstadt", "Theater an der Wien" as well as documents from other Viennese theatres still operating: the Burg Theatre and the "Volks-theater." Several private collections have been added to this wealth of material, among others that of Hugo Thimig and some from famous Burg Theatre artists, such as Adolph von Sonnenthal and Joseph Kainz. The literary collection of the famous singer and wife of writer Hermann Bahr, Anna Bahr von Mildenburg has also recently been acquired as has been the manuscript collection of Stefan Zweig.

An example of the facilities available at the Library can be demonstrated by the following research: with the aid of the charming drawings by masters of the baroque period, the costume designs and sets by famous Italian theatrical designers such as the eminent families Burnacini and Galli-Bibiena (who worked in Vienna during the reign of Leopold I), the wonderful engravings of Francesco and Giovanni Battista Piranesi and finally using pictures of actors and set and scenery models, we can trace the development of Vienna's theatrical heritage back for several centuries.

Let us take up another volume. It is dated 1635 and is illustrated by the great Rubens himself to show the glorious arrival in Antwerp of Archduke Ferdinand, one of the last Hapsburg governors of Belgium. The Rubens illustrations show a triumphal arch built of human bodies and from a large thespian carriage children in fancy dress are descending to perform in welcome of the royal guest.

The walls of the library rooms containing the collection are lined with approximately forty thousand such volumes, among them precious incunabula from the 15th century such as an edition of the Terentius dating back as far as 1483. In order to give wider publicity to these treasures, Joseph Gregor has published a series entitled "Monumenta Teatri" which contains copies of the most valuable sketches and engravings of the Theatrical Collection. Up to now, twelve volumes of this series have appeared, beginning with "Maschere" (Masks) by Burnacini and the works of Guiseppe Galli-Bibiena (published in 1953).

The theatrical Collection not only holds treasures of the past; an archive on cinematographic art has recently been established. It contains a vast literature on film problems along with a great many scripts, nearly one hundred thousand stills, fifty thousand movie posters and hundreds of cans of precious film. These last include sequences from the life of Emperor Franz Joseph I, the assassination of the successor to the Austrian throne and his wife at Sarajevo, shots from World War I and also modern films, with the emphasis on those in which actors from the Vienna Burg Theatre participated.

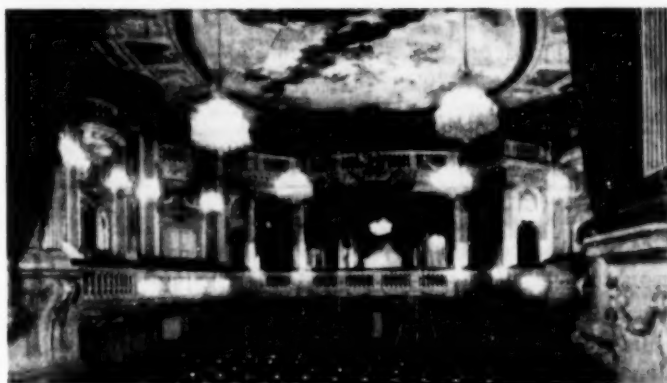
Special material, i.e. documents of the early history of the Viennese theatres, is to be found in the library of the Town of Vienna, under the heading "Viennensia." The Town Library now possesses the complete literary works of Franz Grillparzer, donated in 1878 by his friend, Katharina Froehlich. It also owns works left by the Austrian dramatists, Ferdinand Raimund, Eduard Bauernfeld and Ludwig Anzenberger. The literary works of Johann Nestroy, the "Austrian Aristophanes," were bought in 1923 from his daughter-in-law, Stephanie Nestroy-Bene.

The Theatrical Legacy of Max Reinhardt

In the Schoenbrunn gardens, opposite the old Imperial Palace, the "Reinhardt-Seminar" is housed in the Palais Cumberland. The state rooms have been transformed into classrooms and festival halls. A stage for rehearsals has been erected in one of these. In 1909, this school — founded in 1852 — was attached to the "State Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts" (Staatsakademie fuer Musik und Darstellende Kunst). From 1922 the "Academy Theatre" (Akademietheater), a dependence of the Burg Theatre, was used as a studio and as a stage for presentations. From 1929 Max Reinhardt held his dramatic classes there, but in 1932 he separated them from the Academy and formed a theatrical school of his own in the Schoenbrunn Castle Theatre. His school was re-attached to the Academy in 1938, but it is now independent again, has been renamed the "Reinhardt-Seminar" and is presently under the direction of Reinhardt's widow, Helene Thimig.

In addition to physical training and instruction in elocution, the pupils are given dramatic instruction — history and dramaturgy as well as exercises in expression — based on the principles of Stanislavski (founder of the Moscow Art Theater) and his psychotechnical method in which the actor is supposed not only to represent the personality he is portraying but to "live" the part. History of art and aesthetics is also included in the curriculum.

In addition to the stage at the Palais Cumberland, the pupils can also use the pretty baroque stage built by Fisher von Erlach for the Empress Maria Theresa in Schoenbrunn



Palace. It is here that performances are given, acted and produced by the "Reinhardt-Seminar" pupils usually at the end of their apprenticeship in the school.

Central School of Scenic Art and Festival Organization

In the Academy of Fine Arts (Akademie fuer Bildende Kunst) on the Schillerplatz is the "Central School of Scenic Art and Festival Organization." For the last six years its courses have been held by Emil Pirchan. Pirchan, who has designed about five hundred stage sets for thirty-eight different theatres, is also known as the author of several books on scenery design. In his school he believes in encouraging the individuality of his students by using for study all types of scenic design, including those of the surrealist school. Besides the practical instruction of building stage models and actual settings, many other subjects are taught at this school. They include theatrical history and history of civil-

ization in general, historical study of costumes, heraldry for stage sets, stage techniques, lighting problems, etc. A special course is also offered in producing a play demonstrating the collaboration between the producer and the set designer. Lately a course on stage perspective has been introduced — a subject taught nowhere else in the world. In order to explain the differences between sets for an opera and sets for a play, the young designers are given the task of creating scenery for Oscar Wilde's "Salome," a work which can be performed as the original drama or in the operatic version by Richard Strauss. Designs and scenery construction for films are also included in the course.

The latest achievement by the senior class is a large model stage, equipped with all technical installations. Eighty arc lamps in miniature provide the students with three hundred different color schemes and they can try them out "on stage" with the set models they design. The talented graduates of Pirchan's Central School can be found at work all over the world, not only in Europe, but in America and Australia too.

Similar courses in scenery designing are given in two other Viennese schools — at the Academy of Applied Arts (Hochschule fuer Angewandte Kunst) and the Institute of Technology.

The Institute of Theatrical Science

In a section of the former Imperial Castle on the Michaelerplatz, under the big cupola and just opposite the Theatrical Collection of the National Library, there are stairs leading up to the "Institute of Theatrical Science" — a division of the philosophy department of Vienna University.

While American universities gear their course to the preparation of students for their future on the stage, the

Vienna Institute of Theatrical Science includes practical work in its curriculum. The students, who after eight terms of study and the writing of a thesis can obtain a doctor's degree, are either expected to have had prior stage experience or to have come from one of those schools which prepare them for practical work as, for example, the Reinhardt-Seminary.

The aim of this Institute is to investigate the dramatic literature of the past as well as to consider the means of presenting the ever-growing list of new plays. Theoretical studies include history of the theatre and theatrical institutions, the art of acting, the study of costume, history of stage direction and scenic design, theatrical law, sociological history of the theatre and dramaturgy. The students, at present numbering about one hundred, come from all countries and are of all ages, even including some of mature age.

Twelve large rooms house the huge library which is at the disposal of the institute. One of its most precious possessions is a complete collection of all the plays performed at the Vienna Burg Theatre under the direction of Count Ferdinand Palffy around 1800. The so-called "Leuschke" archive is another unusual item. Collected by the Leipzig theatre enthusiast, Leuschke, it contains the reviews of all plays produced in German-language theatres since 1800. From 1934, the archive has been kept up to date by the institute staff.

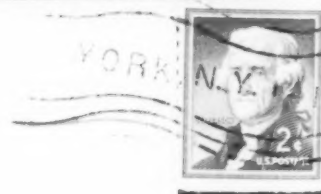
The "Vienna Society for Theatrical Research" (Gesellschaft fuer Wiener Theaterforschung) works closely with the Institute of Theatrical Science. Its main concern is the study of the Viennese theatres and it publishes a valuable annual of its work under the title "Annual Chronicle of the Vienna Society for Theatrical Research" (Jahrbuecher der Gesellschaft fuer Wiener Theaterforschung).

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